

CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown is a hilly, compact neighborhood just north of Downtown. Originally settled in the early 17th century, it became part of Boston in 1874. It was already a thriving harborside community by Revolutionary times, and was the site of the famed Battle of Bunker Hill. A naval shipyard was established there in the early 1800s, generating a mixture of industrial and port-related activities. World War II brought immigrant workers, sailors and laborers to the area. During the post-war depression, the area began a decline that did not reverse until the urban renewal of the 1970s.

The Navy Yard, a nationally historic landmark, was decommissioned and converted to residential and office space bringing young professionals to the area. The USS Constitution, a still commissioned wood-hulled warship that saw action in the War of 1812, is housed in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Today, Charlestown is thriving with a restored community of both old and new, perpetuating further growth and improvement. The most spectacular improvement is the Leonard Zakim-Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge currently under construction. The new Charles River Basin Parks will also bring enjoyment to residents and visitors. Two expressways, I-93 and Route 1, run along the borders of Charlestown. Rutherford Avenue is a major arterial connecting Route 99 and Mystic Avenue to Downtown. The Gilmore Bridge provides a route to Cambridge, crossing over the MBTA's commuter rail tracks. The Charlestown Bridge is the main route for auto, bicycle, and pedestrian access to Downtown. Pedestrians alone may cross the Charles River Dam.

Roadway Volumes in Charlestown*

Rutherford Avenue	61,000
Main Street	6,000
Bunker Hill Street	3,000
Gilmore Bridge	42,000
Chelsea Street	12,000
Source: CTPS	

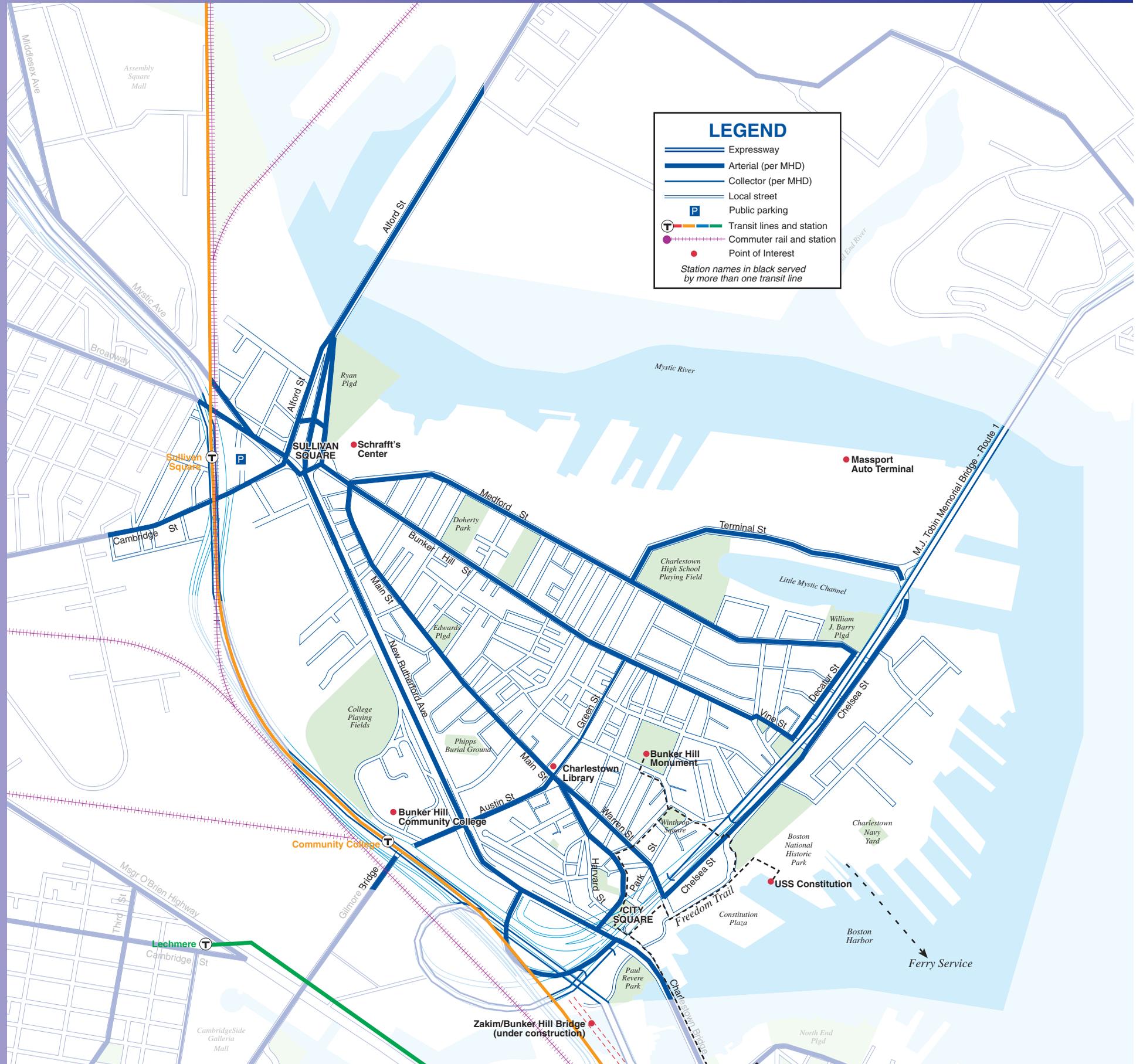
*Estimated daily traffic at a representative point

Between 1980 and 1990, the population of Charlestown increased 10.1% from 13,364 to 14,781 persons, and then again by 2000 grew 3.2% to 15,195 persons (versus 2.5% for Boston). The business district in Charlestown runs along Main Street. In 1996 there were 11,000 jobs in Charlestown. The Schrafft's Center near Sullivan Square houses several businesses in a former candy factory. Bunker Hill Community College is also a major employer. Charlestown continues to have a working waterfront.

Employment Areas in Charlestown

Old Neighborhood	2,200
Mystic River	3,600
Navy Yard	1,900
Rutherford Avenue	3,300
TOTAL JOBS	11,000
Source: 1996 CTPS site-level employment database	

ROADWAY SYSTEM



TRANSIT NETWORK



LEGEND

- MBTA bus route
- Multiple MBTA bus routes
- Transit lines and station
- Commuter rail and station
- Point of Interest
- Station names in black served by more than one transit line*

In 1990, one third of Charlestown households did not have an automobile. Car registrations have increased significantly since then. Charlestown's mode choices are very similar to the citywide average. Three quarters of all trips within Charlestown are on foot, and half of trips to Downtown are by transit. Transit use is also fairly high to the Rest of Boston, and the Inner and Outer Communities.

Distribution of Trips and Mode Shares in Charlestown

	Auto	Transit	Walk
All destinations and purposes	53%	19%	28%
City Average	51%	19%	30%

("walk" mode includes bicycle)

Geographic Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Origin or Destination	Auto	Transit	Walk
32%	Within Neighborhood	24%	1%	75%
13%	Core Neighborhoods	33%	51%	16%
13%	Rest of Boston	62%	38%	0%
32%	Inner Communities	76%	17%	7%
10%	Outer Communities	85%	15%	0%

Activity Distribution of Trips

% of Trips	Activity in Neighborhood	Auto	Transit	Walk
41%	Home	46%	19%	35%
27%	Work	67%	23%	10%
31%	Other	50%	15%	35%

There are stops on the Orange Line at both ends of Charlestown, but they are a somewhat lengthy walk for many Charlestown residents. They tend to serve the employment areas and perhaps account for the relatively high, 23%, transit share for work trips in Charlestown. Bus routes 92 and 93 provide service to the residential and small business communities along Main Street and Bunker Hill Street, and connect them directly to downtown Boston. Cross-town bus service from Sullivan Square includes the 86 to Harvard Square and Cleveland Circle and the CT2 to Kendall Square and the Longwood Medical Area. There are eight other routes which head to points north and west from Sullivan Square Station.

Daily MBTA Use by Station or Route*

Rapid Transit		
Sullivan Square		8,650
Community College		3,650

Bus Routes from Sullivan Square (via)		
89	Clarendon Hill (B'way, Somerville Ave)	3,650
91	Central Sq. (Washington St.)	1,970
92	Downtown Crossing (Main St.)	1,500
93	Downtown Crossing (Bunker Hill St.)	4,650
95	West Medford (Mystic Ave.)	1,700
101	Malden Station (B'way, Somerville Ave.)	4,200
104	Malden Station (Route 99)	3,300
109	Linden Square (Route 99)	2,700
CT2	Ruggles Station (B.U. Bridge)	1,200

*Boarding counts only. Source: MBTA and CTPS